

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 291620Z JUL 76 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6803

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7766

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: KISSINGER VISIT

REF: STATE 187677, PARA 5

1. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE RUN INTO A PROBLEM HERE ABOUT
YOUR VISIT WHICH REQUIRES AN URGENT DECISION ON YOUR PART.

2. I WENT TO BALUCHISTAN YESTERDAY TO DISCUSS WITH BHUTTO
YOUR COMING TRIP AND A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS. THE FIRST
THING ON HIS AGENDA WAS HIS DESIRE TO TAKE YOU IMMEDIATELY
UPON ARRIVAL
FROM PLANESIDE BY CHOPPER TO NATHIAGALI
FOR YOUR VISIT HERE, AND CHOPPER YOU AND PARTY BACK
FOR YOUR NOON DEPARTURE THE NEXT DAY. YOU WILL RECALL,
I THINK, THAT NATHIAGALI IS AN ATTRACTIVE HILL STATION
NEAR HERE WHICH WAS USED AS PART OF YOUR COVER PLAN ON
YOUR FIRST TRIP TO PEKING. HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD
BE NICE FOR YOU TO ACTUALLY SEE THE PLACE AND HE
PARTICULARLY WANTED YOU TO SEE SOMETHING OF PAKISTAN
OTHER THAN RAWALPINDI. WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND, HE
WOULD SUGGEST PESHAWAR, AS A UNIQUE FRONTIER TOWN, AS HIS
SECOND CHOICE WITH RAWALPINDI BEING THIRD ON HIS LIST.

3. BHUTTO SAID HE WOULD LEAVE THE DECISION ENTIRELY
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UP TO ME. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THIS

RESPONSIBILITY, BOTH BECAUSE HE WAS THE HOST AND BECAUSE OF YOUR KNOWN PREFERENCE TO LEAVE THESE DECISIONS TO THE HOST. I PROCEEDED TO TELL HIM IN SOME DETAIL HOWEVER OF THE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS THAT NATHIAGALI WOULD FACE US WITH. IN TYPICAL BHUTTO FASHION HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE THINGS COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY THING TO CONSIDER WAS YOUR OWN COMFORT AND WHETHER THIS WOULD NOT GIVE YOU A MORE PLEASANT AND MEMORABLE VISIT. I SAID I KNEW YOU PERSONALLY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THESE SENTIMENTS. WE WOULD ALSO, OF COURSE, WANT TO KEEP IN MIND AVOIDING COMPLICATIONS THAT COULD CUT DEEPLY INTO TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.

4. BHUTTO THEN ASKED ME WHAT I THOUGHT ABOUT PESHAWAR. I SAID IT WAS A FASCINATING PLACE, BUT GENTLY SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO COME TO HIS CAPITAL. HE SAID "I AM SURE YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT AN AFGHAN REACTION, BUT AFTER MY RECENT TALK WITH DAOUD I THINK HE WOULD UNDERSTAND AND THAT IT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM." I SAID I OF COURSE ACCEPTED HIS JUDGMENT ON THAT ASPECT, BUT FEARED THAT OTHERS MIGHT FEEL YOU WERE BEING INTERJECTED INTO A REGIONAL PROBLEM. (I DO NOT LIKE THIS ONE AT ALL, AND AM CONCERNED THAT IT WOULD PROMPT DETRIMENTAL PRESS COVERAGE UPON PAK-AFGHAN PROBLEMS, PUSHTUNISTAN, ETC. UPON WHICH THE PRESS ACCOMPANYING YOU WOULD NOT HAVE ADEQUATE BACKGROUND TO HANDLE WELL.)

5. IN THE END I LEFT IT WITH BHUTTO THAT WE WOULD WORK WITH HIS PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY TO SEE WHETHER THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING NATHIAGALI COULD BE SATISFACTORILY SOLVED, BUT WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE AN INCLEMENT WEATHER ALTERNATE PLAN WHICH COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT IN THE LAST FEW HOURS IF NECESSARY.

6. IN ACTUALITY, THE SITE OF NATHIAGALI WOULD INDEED PRESENT CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY. ANY DELAY AT ALL IN YOUR SCHEDULED ARRIVAL TIME WOULD MEAN SCRUBBING THE WHOLE PLAN. WHILE THE FLYING TIME THERE IS PROBABLY NO MORE THAN 25 MINUTES, THE WINDOW FOR DAYLIGHT FLIGHT UP THERE IS RATHER DANGEROUSLY NARROW. THE PROBLEM IS FURTHER

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COMPOUNDED WITH PAKISTAN NOW UNDERGOING MONSOON RAINS AND INCLEMENT FLYING WEATHER IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. TRAVEL TO NATHIAGALI BY ROAD WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 2-1/2 HOURS AND COULD BE MUCH SLOWER IF RAIN OR FOG PRESENT. ADDITIONALLY, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE SECURE LAND LINE COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATIONS WOULD REQUIRE A CAN-DO PACKAGE FOR THERE WHICH INCLUDED RADIO FACILITIES FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH

EMBASSY UNIT. ACCOMODATIONS WOULD BE TIGHT, AND WHILE WE HAVE NOT AS YET PHYSICALLY INSPECTED THE LAYOUT, AM GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH IT AND THINK OUR SIDE WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED TO NO MORE THAN 20. THE ONLY PLUS FACTOR IS THAT THE SITE WOULD BE, IF THE WEATHER IS NICE, A BEAUTIFUL SPOT AT ABOUT 8,500 FT., DELIGHTFULLY COOL, AND SO RESEMBLING SWISS SCENERY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER ONE IS ACTUALLY IN PAKISTAN.

7. I AM AFRAID I NEED YOUR HELP ON THIS ONE. I DO NOT WANT YOU HOWEVER TO APPEAR TO BE VETOING BHUTTO'S PET IDEA OF NATHIAGALI. IF YOU DO DECIDE AGAINST IT, AS I WOULD RELUCTANTLY RECOMMEND WE WILL TELL BHUTTO THAT WE HERE LOCALLY, AFTER STUDY, HAVE COME TOTHE CONCLUSION THAT IT IS JUST NOT FEASIBLE. ON THE OTHER HAND IF YOU DO GO, WE (#)

POSSIBLE, WITH FALL-BACK POSITION RAWALPINDI, AND NOT PESHAWAR.
BYROADE

NOTE BY OC/T: ISLAMABAD 7766. (#)OMISSION IN PARA 7 LINE 6.
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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